



**'Thy Word Is a Lamp To My Feet And a Light To My Path'**  
Psalm 119 v 105

## **St Mark's Church of England Early Years & Primary School**

15<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I have had the pleasure of being a governor at St Mark's for 11 years. During that time, the school has experienced several challenges but none as dramatic as COVID-19.

Coronavirus ripped through all aspects of the school, disrupting the way that we communicated, taught and supported each other. I know that some of you have experienced the heavy toll that this disease can bring. On behalf of the Board of Governors, I extend our thoughts and prayers to all those affected.

Our school vision reflects the importance of both the individual and the importance of community and I am so proud that as a school community we came together to work through the last few months.

Teachers made regular calls home and changed their way of teaching so that learning could take place over Google Classroom – all at a time when they would have loved nothing more than to see your children in person.

As a mother who is juggling home-schooling with other work and caring commitments, I totally empathise with how overwhelming it can be. Yet you were generous in your patience as the school transitioned to the new way of teaching and abundant with your ongoing words of encouragement. Thank you. Your kindness really helped to keep spirits lifted.

Amidst these uncertain times, it has been heartening to see so many instances of compassion and commitment that is central to the St. Mark's school character. We were able to welcome back over 100 children to school by the end of term. Our children continued to advocate for a fair and equal society through their engagement with the Black Lives Matter movement. We celebrated the children's remarkable skills in the St. Mark's Got Talent virtual competition and, in the real world, completed the playground improvement works.

As we come to the end of this truly exceptional school year, I am sure that you will join the Board of Governors in thanking all our fantastic staff for their hard work and dedication during this time.

I wish you and your families much love, rest and joy over the summer holiday and look forward to welcoming your children back to school in September.

Your sincerely

Christine Kinnear  
Chair of St Mark's Governing Body

**Sussex Way, Islington, London, N19 4JF t. 020 7272 5967 f. 020 7561 9013**

[admin@st-marks.islington.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-marks.islington.sch.uk)

Headteacher: Martha Braithwaite

Deputy Head: Matt Jones